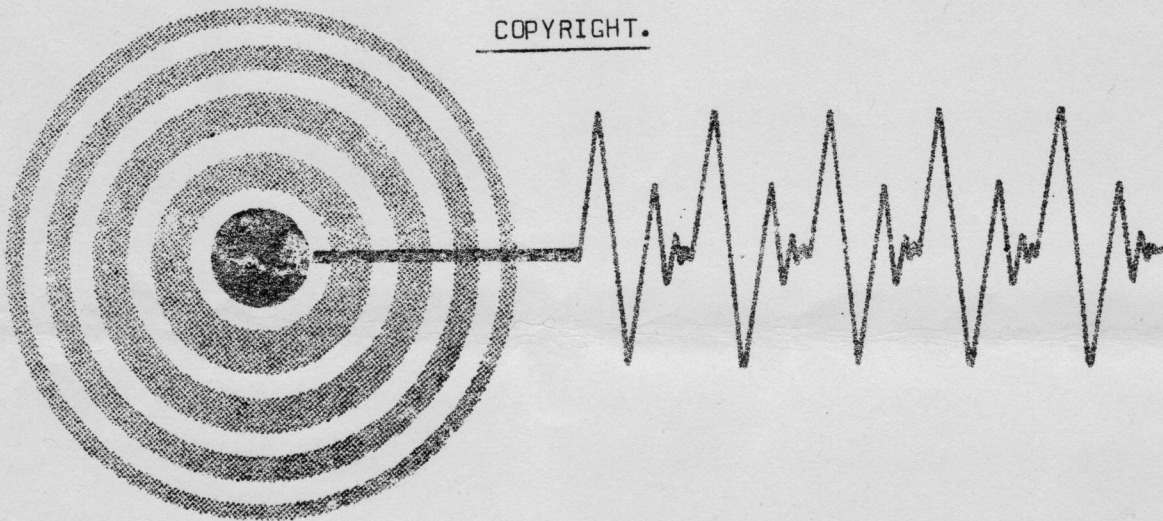


A.C.O.S. BULLETIN

NUMBER EIGHTEEN - APRIL 1979

Registered as a Publication
Category - B

COPYRIGHT.



journal of
AUSTRALIAN CO-ORDINATION SECTION,
CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

P.O. BOX 546, GOSFORD NSW., 2250

AUSTRALIA

DEFINITION

We define the UFO as the reported perception of an object or light, seen in the sky or upon the land, the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic and luminescent behaviour of which do not suggest a logical, conventional explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification if one is possible.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

A.C.O.S. BULLETIN - NUMBER EIGHTEEN - APRIL 1979.

(C) No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written consent of A.C.O.S., except for UFO organisations. Credit must be given.

I N D E X

<u>Item</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Pages</u>
So where's the Logic ?	John Prytz	1- 2
UFOs Vs God	David Seargent	2- 4
Instamatics Rule - O.K.?	Holly I. Goriss	4- 6
Alien Psychology	John Prytz	6-10
Graphology: Another Tool for UFO Research	David Reneke	10-11
Min-Min Lights - UFOs?	Russ Boundy	12-13
Angel Hair-Extremely rare or extremely common?	David Reneke	13-14
THE A.C.O.S. BIBLIOGRAPHY SERVICE	John Prytz	14-16
Which Bone are you	- - -	16
What was the Petrozavodsk Phenomenon?	- - -	16
Helpful Suggestions	David Reneke	16
Notes on Fungi and other causes of markings.	Keith Basterfield	17
Reports from around Australia	- - -	18

Editorial.

by H. Griesberg & D. Seargent.

UFOCON 4, the fourth annual conference of the ACOS member organisations, will take place on October 13-14-15 this year, at the Oxford Koala Motor Inn, Sydney.

These annual conferences are not just a "get-together" once per year, by people interested in UFOs, they are a "THINK-TANK", where representatives of each group, together with our scientific and technical advisors discuss present and future trends in investigation and research. Especially interesting will be this year's, as the accent will be on INVESTIGATION, RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION & the FUTURE. Already, quite a big rollup is expected to this year's conference, attracting the cream of Australian scientific UFO investigators. We can already forecast the high success of the conference.

Looking back over the past few years, one cannot help but notice the advance we have made in Australia in the investigative and research field. We do not claim that everything is perfect, but suspect that after this year's conference, things will be polished up, and we will make even greater advances in our work.

And, let's face it, it is our work and our written reports, which are our reward, and, which one day, will be the history of UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA.

So Where's The Logic?

by John Prytz.

Whether the enigma of the UFO is taken by the general public as evidence of some real and to date unexplained phenomena or just another example of human fallibility and gullibility, is in the final analysis a matter of personal belief. And whatever that personal belief, no doubt each and every person has based that decision on some sort of logic. So it has been for over three decades, and so it will continue to be barring the unexpected.

UFOs are not the only example of an either/or phenomena resting solely on total faith in the available evidence. The Christian religion is a case in point. Personal belief, or non-belief, in God, no doubt for each and every person is also based on a form of logic. However.....

It never ceases to amaze me that people who knock (discount) thousands upon thousands of modern eye witness reports of accounts of encounters with UFOs, can yet in the same breath (if they wanted), testify to their belief, on total faith simultaneously relative to numerous and diversified phenomena, in ancient (and once only) reported sightings that are thousands of years old, that relate to what we know today as Christianity. In other words, there are those whose belief in the reality of the UFO phenomena are at best negative who simultaneously have belief in the reality of a God, who nobody has ever seen (at least not for donkey's years)! Might on that same sort of principle shouldn't people believe in Superman? Nobody has ever seen him either, yet impressive written records (comic books etc.) testify to His existance!

Why is it that UFOs (too many) are not credible, while the following reported miracles, wonders and philosophy surrounding them are considered credible? For example consider the common acceptance of:

- a) Creation of all matters & energy from nothing; in just seven days!
- b) The existence of Heaven & Hell as physical locations!
- c) The Garden of Eden as an once existing location!
- d) God and Satan!
- e) Angels (complete with halos, harps, and wings)!
- f) Spontaneous generation of Man from dust!
- g) Creation of a woman from a man's rib!
- h) And just where did Cain and Abel get a hold of their wives?
- i) Human lifespans of over 900+ years!
- j) Universal flood resulting from 40 days and nights of constant rain!
Just where did all that extra water come from? And disappear to?
- k) An ark with two of each and every animal (and supposedly each and every terrestrial plant species too) with enough room to accomodate not only the hundreds of thousands of multi-cellular organisms, both terrestrial and marine (including fish and marine invertebrates. 40 days/nights of rain - freshwater - that raised sea level over 5 miles - in order to cover the highest mountain - would dilute sea water greatly, and the resulting flood would of course pollute existing fresh water environments. Thus, survival of aquatic organisms would have to be catered for too.
- l) The swallowing of humans by whales (or big fish) alive with the human surviving!
- m) The parting of the red sea!
- n) The sun standing still in the heavens upon command!
- o) And just how does a human being get turned into a pillar of salt?
- p) Destruction of Jericho by a trumpet blast!
- q) Immaculate conception!
- r) The phenomena of a virgin birth (which has admittedly been reported once in a blue moon in the medical literature available)!
- s) The multiplication of the loaves and fishes!
- t) Transmutation of the elements!
- u) Walking on water! Now just how does He do that?
- v) Faith Healing!
- w) Resurrection from the dead and life after death!

Now any one of the above might be no more or less believable than the idea that little-green-men are piloting flying saucers from mars. However, when taken

together in one lump dose, with no supporting evidence other than the pages of the Bible, I personally find my credibility strained just a little bit. But that's neither here nor there.

Nor do I mean to "pick" on Christianity. There are other, even older religions that fail to provide any more substantial evidence for the miracles that provide the foundation for their faths. It isn't the religion in question, just the logic of accepting something based on little evidence, while rejecting something else based not only on far greater evidence, but evidence currently happening around you.

Now obviously there are those who believe in neither God nor the reality of the UFO phenomena, and those who believe in both, and those who consider UFOs to be on a higher plane of reality than God's existance.

However, when considered on a global scheme of things, belief in God is sanctioned by Western society. Religion is good, it is accepted, it is expected of you (how many little boys and girls have been forced to attend church and/or Sunday Schools?), it is in fact big business and the driving force behind much that is good in modern civilization. It is good public relations to be a believer in God and to go to church (or be seen doing so). Society encourages and re-enforces this belief in the phenomena we call God.

Belief in the reality of the UFO phenomena (with all its greater evidence supporting it) is in general not sanctioned by society. UFO believers are at best a bit "far out" and who knows what at worst! UFOs are not big business. One doesn't get ahead in the world or gain added respect by preaching UFOs to the masses! You just about have to (or pretend to) profess belief in a respected religion to reach high public office - at least in the United States. Ever hear of an American President who professed to be an atheist? Professing belief in UFOs, in particular as regards the extraterrestrial hypothesis, is probably a good way of doing yourself out of a few votes! Candidates running on the American Flying Saucer platform have not to date achieved any success at all!

The basis of what we choose to believe in is understandable to a degree. Being religious is seen on a personal level as a self-serving means to a pleasant existance in the hereafter! UFOs can make no such promises, either to the world or the individual. There is no material or spiritual gain to be had by believing in UFOs.

But this is not an either/or situation. Believe in your God if you will, for whatever logical reasons you wish, only don't close your mind to other phenomena around you of any type, if you do. But if you do, then forgive me if I can't help myself wondering just a little bit, where's the logic of it all?

UFO Vs God

by David Seargent.

The compartmentalization of knowledge - so necessary in today's information explosion - has, nevertheless, had the unfortunate effect of narrowing the field from which information about a particular phenomenon can come. Thus, very few UFO writers, to take just one instance, have any great knowledge of something as far removed as religion (excluding the contactees and cultists, of course. I'm only referring to scientific researchers).

This was born out clearly in Mr. Prytz's article "So Where's the Logic?", as I hope to elaborate upon shortly.

First though, let me take him up on a few peripheral points. For instance, I would challenge his remarks about belief in God being "socially acceptable" and that religion is "sanctioned by society" and "big business" whereas belief in UFOs are not. Try telling this to those who have been treated as near outcasts because they are "Bible-bashers" on the one hand and the managers of any number of pulp UFO magazines on the other!

In fact, it is my personal contention that the UFO phenomenon itself is being accepted as something of a "religion" and that extraterrestrial life is coming to replace God as the hope and salvation of mankind and, consequently, the "blind believer" (both in God and in the UFO or ETI) is actually working from

the same logic i.e. NONE AT ALL.

However, this only concerns the "blind" believer - the one who believes because he wants to. The real issue lies, not with him, but with those who demand some type of EVIDENCE for belief, and it is here that Mr. Prytz directs his main argument.

What I especially challenge is the remark "...God, who nobody has ever seen (at least not for donkey's years)". This, I find, on a level with Menzel's remark that any UFO report that cannot be identified should be consigned to the waste paper basket; in other words, it simply assumes that such and such a phenomenon cannot take place (the UFO in Menzel's instance, experience of God in Mr. Prytz's) and to leave it at that. Of course God has not been seen whereas UFOs have been. The reason, UFOs exist and God does not!

This assumption brings me to my main point i.e. the total overlooking of a rather frequent form of experience viz. mystical experience in which people claim to "see" (or rather "experience") God. I am not claiming whether such experience is only to be explained in this manner (just as I do not claim that the UFOs are actual perceptions of a real phenomenon, although I have personal views about both subjects - positive, for the record) but I do assert that claims of such experience should be given equal weight with any other claim - including UFO sightings.

Mystical experience in which people claim to "see" (for want of a better term) God has been a part of all cultures and all ages. A survey taken among CONTEMPORARY Americans shows that some 29% have had one or two mystical experiences and about 24% have had several - 53% have had at least one mystical experience! Now, not all these would claim to have seen God, but the result is nevertheless too great to be swept away. I personally have met more people who have laid claim to some form of theistic mystical experience than I have witnesses of UFOs and (if these were the only grounds) I would naturally conclude that GOD is more credible than UFOs. After all, where would be the logic of a contrary conclusion?

Similarly reports of miracles (yes, even the much maligned walking on the water) have been reported by credible people TODAY. We have hospitals records of healings, not merely of incurable diseases, but also of cases where X-rays have allegedly revealed bones materializing out of nowhere. This may be hard to swallow, but neither can it be swept away because it "doesn't make sense"! Making sense of things which traditionally don't is what we are all about!

I will not attempt to go through each item in Mr. Prytz's list of miracles but I would like to point out that the concept of a miracle as a NECESSARILY supernormal event (i.e. one without "natural cause") is a rather modern one and the distinction between the natural and the supernatural (so called) was not nearly so distinct in ancient times.

Thus it is not surprising to find natural causes for many miracles. After all, nature itself is a miracle sufficient to satisfy anyone and the purpose of miracles was not to pop peoples eyes but to serve some practical end (the way we talk about miraculous escapes from accidents etc. without implying anything "supernatural" there). Both "natural and supernatural" miracles are included and each is equally miraculous.

Bearing this in mind, we may see the flood (for instance) as a local inundation affecting the Euphrates valley - the seat of civilization at that time. Actually the silt from this has been excavated - it is dated at about 4,000 BC and the depth of the waters estimated at 25 feet - the same as the Genesis account.

Similarly the sun staying still and the moon ceasing to give light is explained in the same section - there was a storm of hail and the sun "stayed" (i.e. did not "come out" but remained as if set) - a poetic description of the darkness of the stormy day. The walls of Jerico is a good example of resonance. The "Red Sea" is a missprint for the "Reed Sea" (a section at the end of the Red Sea where the waters end in a swampy marsh) and can easily "part" at the correct wind (which Moses mentions as blowing at the time).

Enough has been said about this, I think, to show that blank dismissal of ancient stories is not as logical as it might sound and if such ancient stories tend to confirm modern "miracles", contemporary mystical experience and philosophical arguments (of which the cosmological and, especially the Lewis-Taylor version of the argument from design are the most impressive) I really don't think that it can be said that the UFO is in a much stronger position than belief

in God. The number of mystical experiences alone certainly outnumber UFO reports.

So "believe in your UFOs if you will, for whatever logical reasons you wish, only don't close your mind to other phenomena around you of any type (mystical experience, miraculous healings etc.) if you do. But if you do, then forgive me if I can't help myself wondering just a little bit, where's the logic of it all?"

1. "Ecstasy: A Way of Knowing" Andrew M. Greeley (Prentice-Hall Inc.)
APPENDIX A "Varieties and Descriptions of Religious Experiences" P. 139.

Instamatics Rule - O.K?

By Holly I. Goriss.

By far the most popular camera type in Australia (if not the world), is the "Instamatic" (not to be confused, as it sometimes is, with "Instant print" cameras), so if any UFO photographs are to be taken, you can safely bet it will be by this type of camera.

The "instamatic" type camera is the descendant of old Box Brownie camera and is basically a light-tight box with a lens in one side and the film at the other side. The controls are simple and vary slightly from camera to camera, and manufacturer to manufacturer, usually depending on the price tag. Basically they include a manual aperture control with settings for either bright sunlight, or cloudy days/flash functions.

"Instamatic" cameras come in two film sizes. The larger camera which accepts a 126 size film cartridge, (not cassette - only tape recorders and 35 mm cameras take those), and the smaller or "pocket" camera which accepts the 110 size cartridge. Other than the film size variation the camera's functions and internal workings are basically the same.

Let's look at Kodak cameras for example. All have a fixed focus lens, (as opposed to 35 mm cameras on which you can adjust the focus), whose focusing distance is usually 1.2 meters to infinity, and whose quality varies according to the price tag. The cheapest of these cameras have one shutter speed setting - 1/60th of a second. The cameras in the higher price bracket have a two speed shutter - 1/40th and 1/80th of a second. The exceptions to this rule in the Kodak range are the "pocket" cameras like the "Teleinstamatic", the "Trimlite instamatic" and the "Ektra cameras".

For example, the "Tele-igstamatic" has a normal 25 mm lens plus a telephoto 43 mm lens which gives 72% magnification of the object being photographed. The viewfinder changes automatically to show the field of view for the lens selected. The camera has an f/11 lens with a two-speed shutter - 1/25th of a second for daylight, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a second for flash.

The "Trimlite" cameras have a variation again. The 28 camera outfit has a 25 mm, f/9.5 lens with electronic shutter 1/30th to 1/60th of a second speed. The 38 camera has a 25mm, f/1.8 lens, and an electronic shutter with speeds from 1/225th of a second to 5 seconds. The 48 camera has a 26 mm, f/2.7 lens, and an electronic shutter with speeds from 1/250th to 1/30th of a second. Other makes of camera obviously have differences in lens type and shutter speeds as well.

Now obviously, the easy-to-operate, "instamatic"-type cameras have their limitations and faults, but with a little care these can be overcome. Let us look at the basic operating problems that many camera owners never seem to overcome.

m The instamatic cameras, especially the "pocket" type, are very light and hence many people find it difficult to hold them steady when they press the shutter release button. The end result is, of course, a blurred print. The prevention - stand in a comfortable, well-balanced manner and squeeze, not jerk the shutter release button.

Another thing that can cause blurred prints is the photographer getting too close to his subject with the camera. Remember, people, your closest focusing distance is one point two meters, and watch those fingers. No putting them in front of the camera lens or you'll end up with a big, dark, blurred blob in

your picture. We all know about shooting into the sun - it's really not on.

Most of the "instamatic" type cameras use Magicubes as a flash - illuminating system. Never totally believe the advertising about DEPENDABLE flash pictures using RELIABLE self-powered Magicubes. Believe me, the Magicubes are reliable enough, but the firing mechanism on the camera gang aft aglay. Usually the "Automatic Magicube Rotation System" hasn't rotated the Magicube quite far enough. With this cube-flash method a light-flash travels about two point seven meters with colour film, (and a bit further if you're using black & white film), so please keep your subject between one point five and two point five meters if you want a good photograph. Watch out for that red-eye effect. Try getting rid of it by buying yourself a Magicube extender. Flash systems, (contrary to popular belief), can be used outdoors during daylight hours. As not every day is perfectly suited for photo-taking with your "instamatic" camera, take your flash cubes along. When there is heavy overcast or your subject is in deep shadow, a flash can give you a well-detailed and bright picture.

Those "instamatic" cameras which require the use of a battery to fire the flash cube, and sometimes to power an electronic shutter as well, use FLASH CUBES, as opposed to MAGICUBES which need no battery to fire them. All you people retailing these articles know the hassles you have with customers who really don't know what type of flash system their cameras uses. All you people who own instamatic cameras; now you know what the difference is, please find out what type of CUBE your camera takes, and remember next time you need to buy some.

But I digress. Some problems are caused by sheer neglect of the camera. A fine, misty effect in the final prints might indicate that there is dust on the camera lens. Keep it clean by wiping the lens (gently now) with a lens cleaning tissue, (I don't mean a Kleenex tissue) or a soft clean lintless cloth.

Another problem is color shifts in photographs (the colours are not true), caused by the film being too old at the time of processing. There is an expiry date on all film packs before which time the manufacturer suggests the film should be processed. Don't let this date panic you. There is a lot of leeway. You can be reasonably sure of good results if your film is up to three months over the expiry date. I have processed one which was six months over the date with perfect results, although I would not recommend doing this consistently, and especially not in high temperature areas. I live in the tropics and it was pure luck (and a reasonably cool winter) that that film was unaffected. I have had another greatly overdate film processed with the resulting photographs looking like they were printed from Tungsten Film which had been exposed under daylight conditions - everything had a harsh blue cast. The best way of extending the life of your film is to keep it in an airtight container in the bottom of your refrigerator. You can then use film which is up to twelve months over the expiry date with confidence. People living in high temperature areas are advised to keep all spare film in the refrigerator, as the continuous heat can badly damage the emulsion on your film. Heat doesn't do the plastic construction of "Instamatic" cameras much good either, so no leaving your camera in the glove compartment of your parked car. Better still, don't leave the camera in the car at all. Take it with you. You never know when you might see something worth photographing (a UFO even).

Double exposures - don't spoil your pictures as the film in the camera must advance before the shutter will operate. This is another piece of advertising not to believe. The film advance system on "Instamatics" might work very well when new, but after a fair bit of use everything gets a little worn and the occasional double exposure can occur. 110 size "Pocket" cameras are the worst offenders here and the slide-type film advance lever also tends to get stuck a lot, especially in the older models.

Another limitation of these cameras is the film size and hence the negative size when it comes making an enlargement. The more you enlarge a photographic negative, the more "grain" (don't be lazy, look it up), you get and hence a greater loss of definition in the end print. In other words, the image becomes less and less clear and precise. A 126 size negative will not enlarge as far as a 135 size negative without loss of clarity, and a 110 size negative will not

enlarge as far as a 126 size negative without further loss of clarity. The quality of the camera lens also puts limits on the clarity of the negative and hence the resultant print.

By now, all you "Instamatic" owners will be throwing up your hands in despair. Well, all is not lost. Take consolation in the fact that there are some good things to be said about this type of camera. Firstly they are extremely simple to operate (and I shall enter into no arguments as to the I.Q. rating of their owners). The drop-in film cartridge saves fiddling about of film as in the 35 mm cassettes and roll films, and hence loading is much faster. How many of you 35 mm camera owners have missed some really good pictures because you had to reload your camera? (Please spare a thought for all we Nikonos amphibious camera owners, as our loading procedure takes even longer as we have to take the camera apart - literally, first).

With "Instamatics" you can bash off photos in quick succession without worrying too much if your subject is in focus, or if you are using the right shutter speed, or the correct lens aperture, and you can be pretty sure of a reasonable result. The cameras are inexpensive to buy and film is readily available.

Just don't expect the impossible from your camera. Don't expect professional quality photographs - you won't get them. Every camera has its niche and that of "Instamatic" type cameras is a kind of visual notebook of your life - the happy snaps of the children; that holiday you went on; the family pets; and if you are extremely lucky, a UFO.

Remember, every camera has its limitations. Get to know the particular limitations of your camera and learn to work within them. Also get to know the limitations of that most important piece of photographic equipment - the Nut BEHIND the camera. For if you are familiar with the type of camera you use, another aspect of UFO research is helped, that of the photograph of physical trace cases etc. Sometimes, photographs of these CE 2 scenes can be almost as important as the soil etc. samples you take.

Alien Psychology

by John Prytz

If there exists the proverbial \$64,000 question in ufology, it is this: why, if UFOs are really nuts & bolts space craft from the dark reaches of interstellar space, don't "they" publicly land and announce their presence, instead of flitting around and plying a cosmic version of "hide & seek"?

The usual argument mustered against the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs centre mainly on times and distances. It is too far and too long for any alien race in its right mind to come and visit little old insignificant us. However, these arguments, while having some merit, pale besides the lack of formal and diplomatic contact noted above. One doesn't go to the time and effort of climbing Mt. Everest only to stop one metre short of the goal!

So why, after all their time, effort, expense, energy and years (tens, hundreds, maybe thousands of them,) of skipping around our skies and violating our airspaces, no public contact? As Mr. Spock would surely say, and UFO skeptics do say, "most illogical"!

This lack of public contact is of course most frustrating to those who lean towards the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs. Frustrating enough to turn some former proponents against the extraterrestrial theory. It is frustrating because all the UFO evidence, sightings, pictures, (motion and still) radar returns, "saucer nests", EM effects, animal reactions, physiological effects etc. will never come to within a fraction of the evidence that just one public landing and a "hi-ho take me to your leader" would provide. And that is the one thing we ufologists have no control over, and lack of control when trying to prove a theory, is something scientists are loath to have to contend with.

So, after all this time, it is (or should be) apparent that should some residue of UFO reports ever prove to be sightings of alien spaceships, "they" will have to provide the proof positive, either accidentally or on purpose (and accidents don't appear to be something we can count on). Not all our writings, interviews and speeches, films and radar returns, sightings and

close encounters, will ever do the trick. It hasn't, it isn't, it won't! The game maybe being played in our ballpark, but we get no say in making up any of the rules - in fact, we don't even know the rules! No wonder we're frustrated!

In fact, we would probably be no better or worse off if all ufological investigation folded up entirely and instead we just sat back and waited, and waited, and waited - for, when all is said and done, that's all we're really doing anyway!

However, back to the problem at hand, and though in addressing ourselves to it we will find ourselves just "whistling in the dark" over figuring out reasons for the bind we find ourselves in, we at least may as well whistle in tune!

Now we would all agree that if UFOs are alien spacecraft, and if there hasn't been to date any public landings of them (which there hasn't, at least in historical times), then there MUST be a logical (even if alienly so) explanation. We can never conclude there isn't one, or can't be one, since we would be second guessing an alien mind, an alien logic, an alien psychology. However, we can use our minds, our logic and our psychology to speculate on just what the solution(s) might be, then try to conclude which one represents the most likely explanation. If there is (and their might be) such a thing as a universal psychology, the job might be easy. We can't assume that, or count on it. For that reason and others, this won't be the last word on the subject, but then that's typical of ufology at the best of times, and for that matter of science and the scientific method too. The last word, in ufology as in marriage, will be left to the "other half"!

Of course the easy way out is to assume that UFOs do not represent in any shape, manner or form a manifestation of extraterrestrial technology, and that in fact, throughout the universe there may not even exist, past, present or future, a "they." End of puzzle, end of speculation, end of paper! However, let's reject that and see where it leads us.

So, again, why no public landings by UFOs? Perhaps "they" are afraid of us, and given the earthly frontier philosophy (frequently put into practice) of "shoot first and ask questions later" or the related "the only good Indian (Black, Yank, Wog, Alien etc.,) is a dead one", that is not a bad first guess. However, any civilization with the technology to cross interstellar space would have to be, in terms of scientific knowledge and ability to utilize it, hundreds, thousands, even millions of years more advanced than us. "They" would have no more reason to fear us than say the modern Australian Army, tanks and all, would fear a tribe of Aborigines throwing boomerangs at them!

But perhaps "they" are equally as advanced morally, and are a non-violent race. Perhaps "they" would just like to avoid an unpleasant scene, much like we go out of our way to avoid a confrontation, if possible, with a nasty little dog. We could, if we wanted, teach that animal a lesson in manners, but why bother? It's a good way of getting the RSPCA on your back, and maybe getting bitten to boot! Besides, most of us are animal lovers at heart!

However, confrontation is not inevitable and maybe I'm being unkind and doing ourselves an injustice to suggest otherwise. If "they" feel that it would be though, the proper preconditioning (like in the movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind) prior to final landing could avoid the possibility. It wouldn't have been the first time that mass psychology was used as a means to an end!

Of course perhaps we are being preconditioned for that "first contact" and don't even know it. Preconditioning takes time, maybe even hundreds of years of it, "they" believe. After all, it's a big step in a civilization's history to have to face that first reality that they are not alone in the universe and not the highest order in the cosmic scheme of things. And/or, we could be (with or without help) conditioning ourselves. Thirty-two years of UFO reports and sightings, hundreds of books, thousands of journal articles, millions of written and spoken words about the subject have slowly but surely provided the climatic conditioning to the possibility, now considered a probability, of the existence of alien life, if not via UFOs,* (*An American public opinion poll conducted several years ago found that something like 98% of the populace had heard of UFOs, one of the highest recognition ratings on record!) then via radio waves sent out from a distant extraterres-

trial civilization. If you stop, think and reflect on it, consider what the difference in public reaction would be to a public UFO landing in post-WWII cold war 1947 compared with one in 1977! And of course the ever increasing popularity of science fiction, movies like STAR WARS and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, television shows like STAR TREK all reaching mass audiences, not to mention the impact that the various real life space programmes and moon landings have had on us, have all found their way into the subconscious of planet earth and her inhabitants. I can think of no logical rebuttal to the preconditioning possibility and have to rank that high on the list of explanations. This means of course that any public landing is still set as a future event.

Then there is the STAR TREK theory. Followers of the show will recall the "prime directive" central to the STAR TREK philosophy was one of non-interference with alien civilizations and their development.

A similar philosophy is held by anthropologists when they go out in the field to study primitive races. They observe, but keep their own presence and affairs to an absolute minimum. Perhaps "they" follow suit. Perhaps "they" want us to naturally develop until such time as we become the discoverer of "them".

Their moral code until then is such as to observe but leave us alone. There is no real rebuttal possible here either. "They" fear for us and our development if our civilization were to take a cosmic quantum leap that would have to result if "they" were to make themselves known to us - if "they" discovered us (which some suggest they have, but what we don't know won't hurt us) but just observed us. And speaking of observing ...

Less respectful towards ourselves are the theories that were first speculated upon by that master science fiction writer H. G. Wells when he wrote in the novel THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (1898):

"No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own; that as man busied themselves about their various concerns they were being scrutinised and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a micro-scope might scrutinise the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water....

...Yet across the gulf of space, minds that are to our minds as ours are to those of the beasts that perish, intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic, regarded this earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us."

Unlike the Martians popularised by Wells, we microbes are not worth invading, yet we are considered the equivalent of such lowly organisms by "them". We are just being scrutinised. This basically is the Zoo Hypothesis. We are the microbes, planet earth is the cage and the aliens are the paying public, maybe even the zoo-keepers! I suggest that this idea is not viable. We are not microbes, and in terms of intellectual kinship, though admittedly not necessarily of biological kinship, we are more alike to any alien civilization than to microbes, and I'd suggest and suspect that aliens would view us in that light. We may be mere curiosities, but we are intelligent curiosities! And this intelligence, sooner or later, would be attractive enough for establishing contact.

If the aliens realize this, yet understand our own aggressive behaviour, they may wish to quarantine us, even though they don't fear us. Speculation was rife prior to October 1957 that the UFOs were here to prevent us from going into space, should it ever look as if we would. They were worried about our development of nuclear technologies and taking that into space, which after all, was "their" domain. We might not be thought of as having the necessary moral development even though we had the technological development. Maybe the UFOs would even save us from ourselves! Well, that hasn't happened. Man has flown into space and to the moon with no sign saying "KEEP OUT" being seen. Maybe, some might argue, the quarantine won't be enforced until we achieve inter-stellar spaceflight abilities with the view that we could possibly threaten "their" home worlds. However, there has never been any shred of evidence to ever support any quarantine theory, and I personally feel this idea where "they" hide until such time as it is proven necessary for "them" to enforce their black ban upon us, isn't on.

But speaking of quarantine, recall how the earlier returning Apollo-from-the-moon astronauts were quarantined for 21 days to protect earth against the unlikely possibility that deadly alien microbes were also brought back. And recall that the Viking Mars landers were sterilized least any life they detected proved to be earth's, and least any indigenous Martian life be wiped out.

This contamination problem is not trivial. Aliens landing on earth could infect us with exotic alien diseases from alien microbes, microbes we have no natural or medical defence against. In turn, "they" must be careful lest themselves find peril when subjected to our bacteria and viruses which their systems couldn't cope with. Maybe that's why no landings!

But what of the reported close encounters of the third kind? The wearing of spacesuits, a suggested method of protection against contamination and counter-contamination, hasn't always been observed. Now either the aliens are themselves sterile (and it is difficult picturing an ecology, even an alien one, that is viable without germs) and also immune to our germs, or else the implications (if one takes close encounters of the third kind seriously) are that humans and aliens share a common biological origin, such that our germs are common too. However, judging from the descriptions of ufonauts, common ancestry seems highly unlikely. Thus, the entire subfield of ufology known as close encounters of the third kind, seems by this line of reasoning, on suspected ground. The very improbability of aliens disregarding the contamination-with-microbes problem reflects poorly on close encounter cases involving isolated contact, if reported correctly. However, the problem isn't that complicated and can easily be solved (eg - spacesuits), so I don't see it as a barrier to public landings, even if it meant the aliens staying inside the ship and communicating through a microphone and speaker setup.

Perhaps it is the earthly environment itself that is preventing the actual last step towards contact? Maybe the gravity is too high or low, the atmosphere toxic or some such thing. That won't wash either. The moon's environment is very hostile to an unprotected human being, but still we went to the moon. The ocean abyss is equally as harsh yet we've gone down to the deepest of the ocean depths. No matter how harsh the environment, there will probably exist the technology to overcome it, and that does double for such super-sophisticated aliens as our UFO friends seem to be. Not that earth should represent much of a challenge - it is pretty much middle-of-the-road as far as environmental extremes go, judging by our own solar system anyway. And even if the environment somehow did preclude the physical landing, contact could still be made, IF "THEY" WANTED IT! All that would have to be done is hang around in the atmosphere or in nearby space, and broadcast to us on the commercial radio wavelengths, or other similar medium. No problem with environmental factors, with microbes, or with fears of us attacking them. They could park themselves out beyond the moon's orbit and broadcast away! Contact has been established, their mission accomplished! But they haven't done this, so can those factors be viable ones stopping either a landing or contact at a distance? I think not.

Lastly, we view the lack of contact from the perspective of our lifespan. Thirty-two years (maybe more) is a healthy chunk out of it. However, let us suggest that 1% of a lifespan is a good waiting period (to an alien) before final contact is established. Perhaps that has been the case before in prior scoutings of budding civilizations. If it were us, that would be about 9 months from on-site discovery, through observation, to contact. However, if the alien's lifespan is 500 to 1000 years long, perhaps a wait (in our years) between discovery and first contact of 50 to 100 years is not unreasonable. I've suggested this long alien lifespan before as a possible solution to the time and distance arguments so favoured by UFO skeptics, and it comes in handy again. If the alien's journey here took 1000 years, then what's an additional 32 years to them? Compared to their journey it is but a fleeting moment. "They" may believe in the philosophy that "haste makes waste" and what time period "haste" is to "them", is to us maybe an eternity.

An earthly microbe population, with lifespans measured in hours, could endure many such lifespans between the time of their cultivation in a test tube and the time a research biochemist injects into their colony a drug to test its reaction. To any but that final population of microbes, "why are we here" would be a puzzling and unanswerable question.

In summary, obviously some lag time must exist twix discovery and full contact in order to carry out observations, conduct research and assess safety requirements. After all, only fools rush in where angels fear to tread! It is illogical to restrict any such aliens to our time frame.

So where does all this finally leave us? In conclusion, let me briefly review the theories, which are not exhausted nor have all the variations been explored I frankly admit. However, I believe the major theories have been examined. I'll do the review in the form of a table, listing each theory, and stating whether or not I feel it is viable (that is logical, maybe with supporting evidence) or not viable (that is illogical and/or with no supporting evidence).

TABLE ONE

<u>Theory</u>	<u>Viable</u>	<u>Non Viable</u>
1. UFOs are not alien space craft		X
2. Aliens fear us		X
3. Aliens avoid confrontations		X
4. Aliens are preconditioning us	X	
5. Aliens have non-interference policy	X	
6. Zoo Hypothesis		X
7. Alien black bans		X
8. Contamination fears		X
9. Environmental fears		X
10. Time frame differences	X	

Of the three viable theories, number 5 is the weakest since the third kind of close encounters run counter to that sort of philosophy, but then I've suggested that perhaps a minimum of stock be taken in close encounters of the third kind because of the contamination question. There is no evidence to support theory 10, even though it is logical. Theory number 4 is both logical and has supporting evidence as anyone familiar with UFO trends over the past three decades can figure out and dwell on. This very paper can be taken as another example of the sort of preconditioning that is going on, the sort of preconditioning that will in the final analysis prepare us for a close encounter of the fourth kind - public contact!

GRAPHOLOGY: ANOTHER TOOL FOR UFO RESEARCH?

by David Reneke.

In pursuing the UFO problem one frequently comes to the point where they begin to have misgivings about the sincerity of the witness or his/her ability to relate the 'truth' as it actually happened. How many times has an investigator asked himself "what makes this person tick?, has he a hidden personality that I cannot see?" You can investigate the person concerned, his employment history, his relationship with his friends etc., and you will end up with good, corroborative data to enhance your findings. I believe the UFO investigator must grasp onto anything that can assist him in his work, we can never get too much information on a report.

It is with this thought in mind that I would like to seriously propose the adoption of handwriting analysis - Graphology to be more correct - and incorporate it into the initial follow up procedure. You already have the 'raw materials' in the form of a written report, so the hard part is over with. All that would remain is to allow a competent analyst, versed in the subject, to interpret the handwriting and give their views on the person or persons concerned; it may reveal something that could profoundly effect the case; think about it!

Of course I would not suggest every report be tackled in this way, in most cases you can plainly see that the witness concerned is stable and is telling the truth to the best of his/her ability. I don't suggest a simple Nocturnal Light get this treatment either; use some common sense and you will see which class of report would merit this follow up. It would prove invaluable in a lot of CEIII cases as well as those involving psychic manifestations; it would give the researcher 'another tool' to work with.

GRAPHOLOGY is the study of a person's handwriting to obtain information about his personality. Although most scientists classify graphology as a pseudoscience its practice is widespread in Europe and many American business firms regularly consult graphologists for advice about which people to hire/fire. At least one American university - the New School for Social Research in New York City - teaches graphology as a serious diagnostic aid.

Some of the principles on which graphology is based are true: for example handwriting changes with the stresses of illness, old age, and tension. The serious psychological study of handwriting has been more widespread in Europe than in the U.S.A. In the 1890's, the French psychologist, Alfred Binet, tested seven graphologists. He asked them to distinguish writing samples of 37 highly successful men from samples of 37 very unsuccessful ones. All the graphologists performed better than chance would allow, and one scored correctly on 92% of the cases.

Despite the lack of 'evidence' for the claims of graphology, many psychologists consider the study of handwriting a useful diagnostic tool. Indeed, several psychology textbooks on projective techniques include discussions of graphology. Such techniques are testing methods that obtain information about a patient's personality without asking direct questions.

We are now looking into areas that were never previously thought of, utilizing techniques that, before now, were considered of little value to UFO research. The advent of the computer analysis for clarification and retrieval of photographic images is one aspect that has advanced the study of Ufology tremendously and although many feel its use is of limited value, and the results obtained are of questionable validity, it must be remembered that this equipment is still undergoing refinement and will eventually 'come of age'. PSE (psychological stress evaluation) machines have recently been introduced to complement regressive hypnosis and their use in determining the validity of the witness' testimony has already been proven. It is considered nearly fool-proof by at least 10 law enforcement agencies in the U.S.A. and in Australia their introduction has surpassed their owners' expectations.

These techniques are all tools for the researcher to us, but like all things new and innovative, they get knocked! What have the 'old' methods gained us? Are we a lot closer following the 'established' rules? Is there any reason why we shouldn't adopt new methodologies to promote UFO research even if the methods at first appear 'way out'?

The answer to all these questions is a resounding NO! and where applicable NOTHING!

Why not consider graphology? Isn't it in the same league? What have we got to lose? At least TRY IT.

Handwriting analysis is used extensively in criminal investigations and while I do not class our witnesses as criminals, the procedure, in many cases is the same. In other words, we obtain testimony on a certain event and through a logical sequence of movements we gradually uncover the 'facts'. We travel from one location to another, we analyze anything pertinent - sometimes using very sophisticated equipment, we question people we take photos, verbatim statements, written data, check on the background of the reporter and his acquaintances as well as compiling a completed record of the event.

We deal with people, so we must concentrate more on what they supply us, including their own testimony. It stands to reason that the more information we have on the person making the report the more concrete that report will be in the eyes of a critical scrutineer.

If courts and Police departments utilize handwriting analyses and get results, why not Ufology?

WORDS OF WISDOM: 1. Try the impossible - you may be the first to succeed.

2. You will never be hung for what you think.

MIN-MIN LIGHTS - UFOs?

by R. Boundy

"It was very bright, a steady yellow-white colour floating through the night air a short distance away. We were curious as to what it was and began to approach it, as it seemed to be quite close and near the ground. As we approached, it moved away, jumped over the small trees and disappeared."

Well contrary to what many may think, the above description is not considered to be of the usual type of UFO (if there is such a thing). It is a description of a phenomenon often reported in isolated areas, not just in central Queensland but in the Northern Territory and West Australia.

Like UFOs, this phenomenon known as the "Min-Min" light has apparently been around for several generations. The term "Min-Min" was of aboriginal origin and once applied to a lonely hotel near Boulia in Western Queensland, it has since referred to a "ghost light" reported to have been seen there and in other parts of the inland.

The sightings are often similar concerning descriptions of the light or lights involved, sightings of lights are sometimes seen regularly in specific areas and acting out what appears to be a recurring behaviour.

*A party of Army Reserve soldiers told "Cairnsweek" newspaper in 1977 they saw strange lights in the Hells Gate region west of Cooktown (Nth.Qld.). The lights appeared in formation, remained at a regular intensity and finally disappeared.

*A Mr. Manktelow was working in the same area about 50 years previous - "one night we were sitting around the camp fire when a series of lights appeared about a quarter mile away. The countryside was bare with only quartz rock outcrops. The lights appeared round, were at shoulder height and seemed to move in formation.

We saw them move along a gully, those among us who didn't care to think about what they had seen dismissed the lights as a work of nature. The half dozen or so lights looked like lamps.(1)

In other accounts - near Clermont a "light" was seen approaching along a railway line, witnesses thought it may have been a train light, until it left the rail tracks and moved off without a sound.

In Western Queensland several witnesses driving in a car were approaching a "bore drain", a small bright ball of light flew toward the car's windscreen then departed over a fence and into scrub. This spot was well known for the appearance of this "light". Apparently the "locals" along with police stationed in the area attempted to catch the light with a net one night. The "light" about the size of a "base ball" flew over the net above the witnesses who heard a crackling sound emanating from it and then departed.(2)

To those of us who have studied closely the reports of UFOs these sightings of what has become known as "min-min" lights do appear in many cases to be linked to the UFO phenomenon. They certainly display several characteristics of UFOs, this cannot be disputed as the lights are always airborne, usually described as round (or spherical) lights and in many cases appear to be (like UFOs) "intelligently controlled." The question to be asked is - Should the "Min-Min" lights be classified separately from the usual sightings of UFOs?

One of the most publicised studies of the "Min-Min" light is being conducted by Mr. Bill Wentworth (an ex-Federal Govt. Minister). Mr. Wentworth who has interviewed many responsible witnesses of the "mystery light" is understood to be investigating the lights along the lines that they are some form of "supernatural phenomenon". (3) This theory could easily be acceptable in many cases, but then it would follow to say that some UFO sightings could also be explained by this theory.

Some of the witnesses to "Min-Min" light sightings feel that this is an adequate explanation to account for what they say.

But read the following accounts of what were described as "Min-Min" lights.

A Mr. Terris and two companions saw a "Min-Min" light operating at 11pm in the Barkly Tablelands, N.T. He described the light as very brilliant, white and fading at intervals then acquiring a bright red flash. It moved in irregular circles and spirals though sometimes went straight upwards to a height of 1000ft then descended to the ground. The witnesses observed the light for 10 mins before it disappeared.(4)

A Queensland journalist observed a "light" near the Landsbrough River - it zig-zagged along a ridge until it reached a tree then illuminated the trunk. It rose among the branches, emitted an eerie greenish glow about 3ft diameter and then travelled about 100yds away. The light then passed once again through the tree but this time not illuminating the trunk.

Another writer described a "light" travelling at "one height" above the grass (rising and falling with the undulating ground). In this instance the "light" gave the impression it was "expanding and shrinking".

Perhaps the "Min-Min" lights are some form of "natural" or "supernatural" phenomenon, but are all of the witnesses in these cases fully informed on the behaviour and descriptions of UFOs. I think not, in fact many of those events which the witness thought were caused by a "Min-Min" light were probably caused by the same phenomena which we investigate - UFOs.

Ultimately though, "Min-Min" lights must be considered as UFOs, after all they are "unidentified". So when faced with a report in which the witness describes the "object" as a "Min-Min Light", let us not pass it off as something supernatural or swamp gas, it could be an important part of the UFO phenomenon.

References: (1) Cairnsweek (newspaper) 21.1.79
(2) Personal files
(3) Big Country - ABC TV 1978
(4) Aust. Encyclopedia No.4

Angel Hair - Extremely rare or extremely common?

by David Reneke.

In reading the literature one comes across the often reported observation of 'angel hair', that mysterious substance which, it is believed, falls from a hovering or slowly moving UFO.

While I have never sighted anything that I could honestly say was a UFO, I have however, been witness to what I sincerely believe was 'angel hair'. It happened quite spontaneously one hot Sunday afternoon, about 1400 as I crossed the street in front of my sister's house, where we had been visiting that day. It was fairly warm at the time, unusually so for a June afternoon in Sydney, and as I was in close proximity to Mascot Airport (1km) the sight and sound of large, low flying planes commanded my attention, more so than the locals who were used to it. Being 30 miles from Sydney where I live, it is very unusual to see low elevation air traffic, most planes fly over at high altitude:- one of the benefits of being sub-urban.

I looked up as a large plane (probably a 727, I didn't pay that much attention to it at the time) took off from the East/West runway and passed overhead, slightly in front of me and maybe a few hundred feet high. Continuing to cross the street and glancing casually at the aircraft, I was astonished to see fibrous strands falling from what I am sure was the rear of the plane, they fell slowly and uniformly on a cushion of air and gave me the impression of thick strands of spider webs, which of course they weren't. They were silver/white strands in a streamer like configuration and as soon as I saw them my immediate reaction was that they looked exactly what I had heard described as angel hair! This caused me to try and study it more closely but time was running out, they had already fallen to rooftop level and were drifting out of my field of view.

After watching this curious sight for some 20 seconds the mysterious fibrous strands disappeared behind nearby buildings, too far away to be certain of their location as I had at one stage contemplated trying to catch up with it in the hope of obtaining a sample. The entire event, while not frightening, was at least striking, the strands were plainly visible and were definitely coming off the body of the aircraft. To say they resembled fibres of silk would be close

although one is always hard pressed to compare something like this in common terms; they may be a substance that is well known to those engaged in work associated with aircraft, if so I would be grateful to be enlightened but my enquiries with Mascot and others have led to a dead end; it seems that what I saw may be very uncommon.

I have spent quite a few days near the airport hoping to get another glimpse of this 'stuff' but so far I have been unsuccessful, somewhat akin to an observer trying to reproduce those conditions that led to his first sighting of a UFO I suppose; either way, of one thing I am sure: this substance was exactly like eye witness reports of angel hair and as soon as I saw it I 'knew' what it was, it has been about 6 months now since the incident took place and the only theory I have cared to entertain is that maybe fuel spillage caused the phenomena, but how can fuel spray form into long, thin fibrous strands? Are we wrong in assuming that angel hair is indigenous to UFOs?

THE A.C.O.S. BIBLIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Published information in all areas of knowledge is increasing so rapidly that it is almost impossible to keep abreast of it. One result has been the ever increasing subject specialization of researchers, but even publications in very narrow fields outstrips those interested in following them. Ufology is one such narrow area of study that has recently seen an information explosion.

To help our readers keep up with ufological and related material, a new and regular feature is being offered, starting with this issue of the ACOS Bulletin. A feature unique to any UFO journal, a select bibliography on topics of interest to ufologists will be printed for the information of members.

Compiled by John Prytz, a professional science librarian at the Parliamentary Library, Parliament House, Canberra, these bibliographies provide source material in the areas of ufology, the paranormal, life on other worlds (exobiology), planetary astronomy, space science and related fields, and upon other topical headings by special request of the co-ordinators.

Though obviously this service cannot be exhaustive, the bibliographies will cover major newspaper articles (mainly Australian) and journal pieces from among others, New Scientist, Nature, Omni, Time, Science News, Playboy, Newsweek, American Scientist, Scientific Australian, The Bulletin, Scientific American etc and other non-book sources.

UFO and other special interest journals will not be culled as members will probably be familiar with those contents in the course of their own researches. Foreign language publications will not be covered either. Books in general will not be listed as a plethora of book columns already exist.

Future topics will include such things as the inferior planets (Mercury and Venus), CETI & SETI, astro-archaeology, life on Mars, the Jovian planets and UFOs (obviously). The first offering will be on general exobiology, and exobiologist Dr. Carl Sagan.

Updates on topics already covered will be presented from time to time.

BIBLIOGRAPHY NUMBER ONE - GENERAL EXO BIOLOGY by John Prytz

- 1) Adams, Phillip - "But what If we Are Alone?" - The Adelaide Advertiser, 5 January 1979.
- 2) Adams, Phillip - "Yoo-hoo, Are You Out There?" - The Brisbane Courier-Mail, 11 November 1978.
- 3) Ball, John A. - "The Zoo Hypothesis" - Icarus, July 1973 - p.347-349.
- 4) Black, David C. & Suffolk, Graham C.J. - "Concerning the Planetary System of Barnard's Star" - Icarus, July 1973 - p.353-357.
- 5) Bolotin, H.H. - "The Quest For Extra-Terrestrial Intelligent Life" - The Commonwealth Professional, January/February 1975 - p.22-34.
- 6) Cottey, Alan - "Advanced Life in the Universe" - New Scientist, 27 April 1978 - p.236-237.
- 7) Freeman, J. & Lampton, M. - "Interstellar Archaeology and the Prevalence of Intelligence" - Icarus, June 1975 - p.368-369.
- 8) Halstead, Thora W. - "Exobiology" (in) McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, Vol.12 - New York, New York - 1977 - p.620-622.

- 9) Hohlfield, Robert G. & Terzian, Yervant - "Multiple Stars and the Number of Habitable Planets in the Galaxy" - Icarus, March 1977 - p.598-600.
- 10) Huang, Su-Shu - "Extrasolar Planetary Systems" - Icarus, March 1973 - p.339-376.
- 11) Imshenetsky, A.A. & Murzakov, B.G. - "Detection of Extraterrestrial Life by Radiometric Techniques" - Life Sciences and Space Research, XII, 1974 - p.3-11.
- 12) Imshenetsky, A.A. et al. - "Methods of Search for Extraterrestrial Life" - Life Sciences and Space Research, XIV, 1976 - p.345-349.
- 13) Imshenetsky, A.A. et al. - "On Methods of Detection of Extraterrestrial Life" - Life Sciences and Space Research, XIV, 1976 - p.345-349.
- 14) Jastrow, Robert - "Are We Alone in the Cosmos?" - Natural History, June/July 1974 - p.62-65.
- 15) Jones, Eric M. - "Colonization of the Galaxy" - Icarus, July 1976 - p.421-422.
- 16) Kuiper, T.B.H. & Morris, M. - "Searching for Extraterrestrial Civilizations" - Science, 6 May 1977 - p.616-621.
- 17) "Life in the Universe" (in) Allward, Maurice (Ed) - The Encyclopedia of Space - Paul Hamlyn, Middlesex - 1968 - p.433-471.
- 18) Merek, E.L. & Oyama, V.I. - "Integration of Experiments for the Detection of Biological Activity in Extraterrestrial Exploration" - Life Sciences and Space Research, VIII, 1970 - p.108-115.
- 19) Michaud, Michael A.G. - "Negotiating with Other Worlds" - The Futurist, April 1973 - p.71-77.
- 20) Oliver, B.M. - "Proximity of Galactic Civilizations" - Icarus, June 1975 - p.360-367.
- 21) Mellor, D.P. - "Carbonaceous Meteorites - Possible Sites of Extraterrestrial Life?" (in) Landel, Robert F. & Rembaum, Alan (Eds) - Chemistry in Space Research - American Elsevier Publishing Co., New York - 1972 - p.83-103.
- 22) Rutten, M.G. - "Extra-terrestrial Life" (in) Rutten, M.G. - The Origin of Life By Natural Causes - Elsevier Publishing Co., Amsterdam - 1971 - p.373-394.
- 23) Sagan, Carl - "Exobiology" (in) Stubbs, Peter (Ed) - New Science in the Solar System: A New Scientist Special Review - New Science Publications, London - 1975 - p.62-64.
- 24) Sagan, Carl - "Life Beyond the Solar System" (in) Ponnampetuma, Cyril (Ed) - Exobiology - North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam - 1972 - p.465-477.
- 25) Sagan, Carl & Drake, Frank - "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence" - Scientific American, May 1975 - p.80-89.
- 26) Science Policy Research Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress - Possibility of Intelligent Life Elsewhere in the Universe - U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. - 1977.
- 27) Shapely, Harlow - "Concerning Life on Stellar Surfaces" (in) Good, Irving John (Ed) - The Scientist Speculates: An Anthology of Partly-Baked Ideas - Basic Books, New York - 1962 - p.225-233.
- 28) Taylor, L.B. - "The Search for Other Life" (in) Taylor, L.B. - For All Mankind: America's Space Programs of the 1970's and Beyond - E.P. Dutton & Co., New York - 1974 - p.173-186.
- 29) Thiemann, W. - "Is the Detection of Optical Activity in Extraterrestrial Samples A Safe Indicator for Life?" - Life Sciences and Space Research, XIII, 1975 - p.63-69.
- 30) Thomas, Lewis - "We Are the Newest, the Youngest and the Brightest Thing Around" - The New York Times, 2 July 1978.
- 31) Vishniac, Wolf - "Risk and Yield: A Comparison of Exobiological Techniques" - Life Sciences and Space Research, VII, 1969 - p.1.

BIBLIOGRAPHY NUMBER TWO - ABOUT DR. CARL SAGAN, EXOBIOLOGIST

- 1) Cooper, Henry S.F. - "Profiles: A Resonance With Something Alive (part 1)" - The New Yorker, 21 June 1976 - p.39-83.
- 2) Cooper, Henry S.F. - "Profiles: A Resonance With Something Alive (part 2)" - The New Yorker, 28 June 1976 - p.30-61.
- 3) Fraser, John - "Starry-Eyed Thoughts" - The Adelaide Advertiser, 2 August, 1978
- 4) Gelman, David et al. - "Seeking Other Worlds" - Newsweek (Aust'n Edition), 5 Sept. 1977 - p.32-37.

- 5) Ridpath, Ian - "A Man Whose Time Has Come" - New Scientist, 4 July 1974 p.36-37
- 6) Thomas, Shirley - "Carl Sagan: Astronomer-Biologist Who Studies Life Beyond the Earth" (in) - Thomas, Shirley - Men of Space (Vol.6): Profiles of Scientists Who Probe for Life in Space - Chilton, New York - 1963 - p.184-211.

EXTRA NOTE: A new journal has just been launched dedicated to exobiology. It is called Cosmic Search: The First Magazine About The Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence, volume 1, no.1 issued in January 1979. Information is available from Radio Observatory, Box 293, Delaware, Ohio, 43015, U.S. of A.

Which Bone are you?

It has been said that membership of an organisation is made up of 4 kinds of bones: There are the WISHBONES who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do the work. There are the JAW-BONES who do all the talking but very little of anything else. Next come the KNUCKLE-BONES who knock everything that everybody else tries to do. Finally there are the BACK-BONES who get under the load and DO the work. WHAT KIND OF BONE ARE YOU ???

What was the Petrozavodsk Phenomenon ?

On September 20th 1977, resident of Petrozavodsk (300 Kilometers northeast of Leningrad, USSR) were witness to a spectacular luminous phenomemon like a giant Jellyfish in the sky.

Although speculation was, for a time, rife, with everything from an american invasion to the landing of a spaceship being put forward in explanation, it now appears that the real culprit was the unannounced predawn launch of the Soviet reconnaissance satellite COSMOS 955. Both in time and position, the strange light phenomenon and the rocket launching closely agree. (see "Sky & Telescope" Jan.1978 p. 19).

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS.

compiled by D. Reneke.

Cut out the weather section of your local newspaper and stick it into an exercise book. It will prove invaluable when researching most cases and it will serve to cross check the witness's information on the conditions prevailing at the time of observation. A complete record of the temperature, wind speeds and direction rainfallssynopsis, and cloud covering can be compiled and this data, in turn, can easily be transferred to your completed report. If you decide to adopt this recommendation you will end up with your own data bank from which ALL investigators in your group can benefit, they simply call the person to whom this job has been delegated and in no time they can either have the necessary information relayed to them over the phone or they can request a photocopy for inclusion on their report (preferred). The weather section usually contains a multitude of additional data including the rising and setting times of the sun, moon and planets. The records should, naturally, be kept up to date; should an 'old' case turn up that is largely dependant on concise weather details, ready access is thus available instead of wasting valuable time on phone calls to the Department of Meteorology and waiting days, perhaps weeks, for a reply.

A listing for all investigators should be compiled with contact numbers and names of those departments who can supply important information on sighting reports. Quick reference can thus be obtained instead of systematically going through the telephone book or ringing random numbers supplied by the operator.

Notes on Fungi and other causes of markings.

by Keith Basterfield.

Quite a few physical trace cases have occurred in the past which have turned out to have a botanical cause e.g. fungi and slime mould. Some notes of interest follow.

FUNGI:

The fungi are a large group of plants which are characterised by two important features:

- 1) they are non-green plants devoid of chlorophyll,
- 2) the plant body is characteristically composed of branching threadlike structures termed HYPHAE. These may occur in an interlacing tangle collectively known as MYCELIUM.

Fungi thrive in any environment that provides proper conditions for growth. They thrive in soil, in the living and dead remains of plants and animals and other organic materials such as foods and leather.

Hence the markings they can cause are to be found both on lawns and in paddocks. The fruiting bodies of the gill and other fleshy fungi, grows in lawns and pastures can be either produced singularly or in a circular colony called "fairy rings". The perennial mycelium of the fungus begins growth in the centre of the ring and then spreads outwards. Older mycelium in the inside of the ring die when the organic material in the soil which it has been using, is all used up. However the younger mycelium produces annually a succession of fruiting bodies. Thus the ring increases its diameter year by year if the conditions are right. The diameter of such rings can therefore vary depending on age and rate of growth. Studies on rings in Colorado USA quote a species of Agaricus which was 180 feet in diameter with an estimated age of 250 years.

In investigating, the clues to look for are either toadstools/mushrooms in association with the ring (fruiting bodies) or upon digging the soil in the ring area itself, the presence of white threadlike mycelium in the soil which are not outside the ring. If either/both of these are present then suspect fungi. Have this confirmed by soil analysis. Markings caused by fungi tend to be discovered during summer.

LEAF SMUT:

The smut are a class of fungi known as BASIDIOMYCETES which lack a conspicuous fruiting body. The fungus consist of vegetative hyphae, together with spores of various kinds. Smuts are parasites. The name "smut" refers to the black and dusty masses of spores formed within the tissue of the host plants. It can attack lawns.

SLIME MOULD:

These are a unique group of organisms whose origin and relationships have not been agreed upon. In schemes of plant classification they are associated with Fungi, but usually excluded because of certain structural features.

They are found in moist woods, sawdust, rotting logs, damp soil, leaf mould, decaying fleshy fungi and other organic matter.

Following periods of rainy weather this may occur on the leaves of grasses or other plants on lawns. Often they become visible literally overnight on front or rear lawns after rain and are evident as circles or partial arcs of black particles several meters in diameter. To the touch the small black particles feel "greasy". They may be removed from lawns by mowing, but if left to themselves gradually decay within a few days often losing colour and becoming grey. Main months are during winter.

If you get the opportunity to view such "rings", you'll probably be surprised at how "artificial" they can appear.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

We must have respect for both our plumbers and our philosophers, or neither our pipes nor our theories will hold water. (J.W.Gardner.)

REPORTS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA:

NA79044 1 January 1979 1800-1900 Bexley NSW DD UFOR(NSW)

At sometime between 6-7 pm, a 33-year old Bexley housewife and her husband observed a small silver object high in the sky moving from N to S. Elevation 70 degrees and appeared to be "star-sized". Duration of sighting was approximately 4 minutes, when it disappeared from view.

TA79014 9th January 1979 2145 South Hobart TAS. NL TUFOIC.

A family of 4 were sitting outside on a warm evening when they observed a nocturnal light cross the sky. It was described as a silver-white light at 45 degrees elevation heading to the SE.

TA79016 15 January 1979 0440 New Norfolk TAS. CE1 TUFOIC.

A woman was up at 4.15 am to get ready for work. She heard an unusual noise coming, it seemed, from overhead. Looking out the curtains, she saw a beam of whitish light shining onto the ground in her back garden. It seemed to be 0.5 to 0.75 m across, and the noise sounded like a large electric fan in a confined space. It seemed to diminish in volume for a few seconds, then growing loud again. Then, in an instant, the sound ceased. Looking through another window, she could see nothing. Duration was 5-8 minutes. No connection can be established but the witness says it took 15 minutes for the kettle to boil instead of the usual 4-5. Later it was noticed the stove clock was approximately 10 minutes slow. No traces were found in the garden.

TA79028 5 February 1979 2150 Lawitta TAS. CE2 TUFOIC.

An 18 year old man had been to Hamilton in the Derwent Valley which he left at 9.30 pm on a fine clear evening for the return trip to Hobart, a distance of 71 KM. The next thing the witness recalls is that he is in the Royal Hobart Hospital with a nurse shining a light in his eyes. It was then that he recalls some detail of an event that occurred at Lawitta about 42 KM from Hobart. He recalls that first his car radio died out, he pressed the station buttons, but the radio remained dead. Only seconds later, an intense white light seemed to envelope the car and he could not see beyond the end of the bonnet. The car lights and motor all failed in the same instant. Beyond this things are only vague. He thinks he tried to restart the car when he realised the engine had stopped. He was stopped in Hobart city by Police for driving without lights. He did not know where he was going, who he was or where he lived. The police found his address on personal papers and took him home. The father and son at his house took him to hospital, where he was in a dazed condition. The witness had a pulse rate of 100 and was in a state of shock, when a nurse shone a light in his eyes and he backed away as if scared and seemed to recover his memory, although still not able to recall all of the event at Lawitta.

The car had a flat battery and the oil was very low. This puzzled the witness as the car had been checked 3-4 days prior to this, with no driving until that night. The cut out switch in the alternator needed replacing, also some of the wiring, especially to the headlights. It was bubbled as if overheating. The witness did not wish to take the case any further and is not interested in any hypnotherapy to try and recall his memory. He also has no interest in the UFO phenomena. The main point in the witness's favour is that TUFOIC only heard about this case on the grapevine, and the witness was reluctant at first to give any information.